

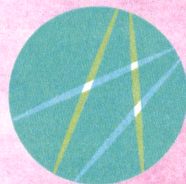
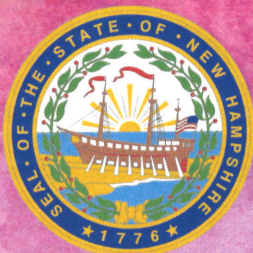
GOVERNOR'S

2019

A R T S

A W A R D

October 21, 2019
Bank of New Hampshire Stage



New Hampshire
State Council on the **Arts**

2019 Governor's Arts Awards

Performance

Chris Klaxton Quartet

Welcome

Monica Hernandez, Emcee
WMUR News Anchor

Poetry Recitations

Falon Smith and Rachel Sturges
New Hampshire Youth Poets Laureate

Remarks and Introductions

Sarah Stewart, Commissioner, NH Department of
Natural and Cultural Resources

Remarks and Award Presentations

Honorable Chris Sununu, Governor of New Hampshire

Arts Education Award

Sponsored by New England College
Theophilus Nii Martey

Arts in Health Award

Sponsored by Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health
Crotched Mountain School

Creative Communities Award

Sponsored by Northeast Delta Dental
Town of Mason

Distinguished Arts Leadership Award

Sponsored by Christine Dwyer
Bente Torjusen West

Folk Heritage Award

Sponsored by Sanborn Mills Farm
Jane C. McBride Orzechowski

Individual Arts Champion Awards

Sponsored by Shannon Chandley and Tom Silvia
Steve Duprey
Dr. Robert O. Wilson

Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure Award

Sponsored by Eversource
Sylvia Nicolas

Welcome

New Hampshire is a state with a breadth of artistic energy and people who, through personal decisions and commitment, make a difference to the quality of life in their communities and the state. The State Arts Council, in cooperation with the Governor's Office, biennially takes the opportunity to acknowledge these contributions through the presentation of the Governor's Arts Awards. Each category allows us to bring attention to the work of award recipients in promoting the excellence, growth and availability of the arts in New Hampshire.

2019 Governor's Arts Awards Recipients

Arts Education: Theophilus Nii Martey

Theo Martey has introduced thousands of New Hampshire children, youth and adults to African culture through rhythms and dance, contributing significantly to international diversity and cultural understanding throughout the state. His vibrant artist residencies give NH students an opportunity to experience hands-on West African drumming and a variety of dance styles from his native country of Ghana. Theo is the leader of the Akwaaba Ensemble, which has performed concerts throughout NH, the northeastern US, Mexico and Canada since 2002. He has been on the Arts Council's juried Arts Education Roster since 2005, the same year he became a United States citizen.

This award recognizes an individual, nonprofit organization, school district or community that has made an outstanding contribution to arts education within the past three years.

Arts in Health: Crotched Mountain School

Crotched Mountain School serves nearly 100 students with special needs. Since 1953, the creative arts have been a key component in the Crotched Mountain experience and an integral part of everyday life, with students participating in music, theater, painting, drawing, ceramics and dance. The School is one of the few special education schools with dedicated art and music classes. Eric Peterson, the School's art teacher, has a simple philosophy: *give students the time and instruction they need to create a polished piece of artwork that they can take pride in. There is no rush. There is no deadline. There is creation. And there is expression.* Every day, Crotched Mountain School embraces the arts and their powers of creativity, expression and discovery for healing.

This award recognizes an individual or nonprofit organization for providing increased access to the arts for people in healthcare settings.

Creative Communities: Town of Mason

Mason may be a small town, but it is big in supporting the arts. When planning the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration, the planning committee developed program initiatives to tell the story of Mason's history through the arts. Elementary school students participated in a year-long program with artist-in-residence Michelle Jimeno, who led them in creating six murals, unveiled during the celebration. With a grant from the State Arts Council, the town employed 12 New England artisans to demonstrate a wide range of traditional arts, including basket weaving, blacksmithing and wooden spoon making. Musicians and authors also participated. Although Mason is a small community with limited resources, the town brings the arts to life for its residents.

This award recognizes a city, town or village government or community-wide organization or individual that significantly fostered the arts through funding and/or program initiatives within the past three years.

Distinguished Arts Leadership: Bente Torjusen West

Bente served 30 years as Executive Director of AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon until her retirement in 2016. She joined AVA when it was located in a small space on the second floor of the Dartmouth College bookstore. When required to move, she had the vision to take AVA to the former H.W. Carter and Sons overalls factory in nearby Lebanon, where the organization added artist studios, teaching studios and large gallery spaces, renovating the space to earn LEED Gold Certification. Bente's focus on serving the community led to programs not just for artists and AVA's galleries became gathering places for a broad range of local activities. Bente rounded out her career with the LEED construction of the adjacent Sculptural Studies Building to house wood, metal, clay and stone art instruction, which is appropriately nicknamed "The Bente Building." Bente's support of artists and the arts is best described by artist John Kemp Lee, who said: "She is the person who, more than anyone else in this region, has made being an artist a viable option."

This award recognizes an individual who has played a sustained role in the advancement, direction or management of a New Hampshire nonprofit arts organization.

Folk Heritage: Jane C. McBride Orzechowski

Jane is a fiddler of exemplary talent, skilled in Swedish, French Canadian, Irish, Scottish, and New England musical genres and history. She is an integral part of New Hampshire's folk heritage and well-respected by her peers. Throughout her career, Jane has sought to bring new talent to these traditional music disciplines, supporting and mentoring younger performers in their quest to preserve and expand these musical works and their heritage. She has been playing the fiddle since she was a child and was inspired by attendance at the New England Folk Festival. Jane has been a member of two long-standing groups: *Old New England* and *The Sugar River Band*, where she plays with her children. Jane's nominator describes her style of playing by simply stating, "It's full of integrity and grace." Jane has recorded two CDs with the *Canterbury Country Dance Orchestra* and one with *The Sugar River Band*.

This award recognizes a New Hampshire traditional folk artist who has made a significant contribution to his or her art form and the cultural community, reflecting a lifetime of achievement.

Individual Arts Champion: Steve Duprey

As a commercial real estate developer, Steve has spent much of his efforts over the last decade revitalizing downtown Concord while supporting the creative economy. He was an integral part of the Main Street redevelopment project, helping to secure a highly competitive grant which turned the project from a dream to reality. Steve has donated corporate space for alternative galleries that showcase artists and arts organizations like the League of NH Craftsmen and the New Hampshire Furniture Masters. He supports public art by commissioning local artists to showcase their work in and around Concord. Steve believes that "Concord has a lot of canvases." One of those canvases was the deteriorating Concord Theater. Steve was able to acquire the building and worked closely with Capitol Center for the Arts (CCA) to develop plans for renovating it into the modern venue you are in tonight – the Bank of NH Stage. Steve also lent his expertise in leveraging development tax credits and other sources of funding to make CCA's purchase of the theatre a reality, realizing a longstanding goal of creating a second performance venue.

This award recognizes a New Hampshire resident who has made a significant contribution - of money, time, goods or services - to the support of the arts in New Hampshire.

Individual Arts Champion: Dr. Robert O. Wilson

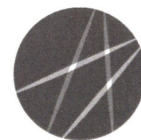
Bob Wilson arrived in Concord, New Hampshire in 1964 to set up an oral surgery practice and raise a family. To say Bob has dedicated his life to civic duty would be an understatement. He was the Concord Zoning Board Chair for more than 30 years and served on local, state and national boards that include NH Public Radio, NH Historical Society, Canterbury Shaker Village and Capitol Center for the Arts. Dr. Wilson and his wife of 57 years, Jill, are ardent advocates for the arts in all their forms in New Hampshire and beyond. For more than six years, Bob led the discussion, strategy and fundraising efforts for CCA's second, smaller, more flexible venue – the venue you're in tonight. Bob started his long relationship with CCA when he joined the Board of Trustees in 2006, serving in various roles, and since 2015, as Chair of an ambitious multi-year campaign: *Creating Our Future: Act III Scene I*. Bob was at the forefront of years of strategic planning, visioning, research and due diligence that would span three "scenes" and address critical needs for upgrades in technology, ticketing and facilities and establish important reserve funds for the CCA. Thanks to Bob's leadership, on June 24, 2019, CCA held the official ribbon cutting for the Bank of NH Stage.

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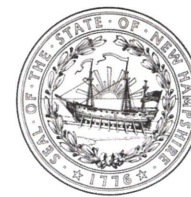
Lotte Jacobi Living Treasure: Sylvia Nicolas

Sylvia, a European-born multidisciplinary artist, has resided in New Hampshire since 1968. She has contributed to the cultural life of New Hampshire through her many public statues, stained glass windows, and mosaic installations. Now in her 90s, she continues to bring her unique eye for form, color and composition to an ever-growing list of public commissions across the state and the region. In style and execution, her sculpture and stained glass designs bear the unmistakable mark of 20th-century European modernism. Her figures are boldly drawn with heavy outline, their flattened appearance nonetheless brimming with an energy and vitality not typically associated with stained glass in a religious context. Sylvia has called herself a "storyteller of mythologies," characterizing her work as containing a "mixture of reverence and irreverence." Ultimately, she says, "I would like to be remembered for my humanity." Sylvia's work can be seen on countless college and university campuses across New England, including St. Anselm College in Manchester, and churches, chapels, hospitals and schools as far as Colorado. She is currently working on a commission of 14 Stations of the Cross for a church in Providence.

Named after the late photographer Johanna Alexandra (Lotte) Jacobi, this award recognizes a professional New Hampshire artist, in any discipline, who has made a significant contribution to their art form and to the arts community of New Hampshire, reflecting a lifetime of achievement.



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts



About the Artists

Chris Klaxton has developed a reputation as a gifted multi-instrumentalist, imaginative composer and effective educator. A juried member of the Arts Council's Arts Education Roster, Chris is on faculty at Plymouth State University, Portsmouth Music and Arts Center (PMAC), Southern New Hampshire University and the University of Southern Maine. He teaches jazz and classical trumpet, jazz piano, composition, theory and coaches ensembles. As a performer, Chris plays trumpet, keyboards, guitar and percussion in a variety of projects running the stylistic gamut. His self-led 8-piece ensemble has recorded two albums of original music which display his eclectic palette, a unique approach to the jazz tradition and a fertile imagination. Chris is joined tonight by **Yvonne Aubert** on piano, **Les Harris, Jr.** on drums and **Matt Hogan** on bass.

Falon Smith and **Rachel Sturges** are currently serving as this year's New Hampshire Youth Poets Laureate. Falon is a junior at Littleton High School. Her vision for her role is "to work to promote the impact and importance of the different ways poetry can be used to better express ourselves and understand each other." Rachel's work has been published in the National Writing Project in New Hampshire's *Middle/High School Voices* and *I Need to See This on Paper*, the Avenue A Teen Center Anthology. Rachel is a senior at ConVal High School.

André Belanger designed the iconic Governor's Arts Award in 2011. Working in his Berlin, NH workshop, Studio Works, he makes one-of-a-kind custom signs in the tradition of early American sign makers and teaches drawing, painting and sculpture to students of various ages and abilities, including gifted students and the developmentally disabled. André has been commissioned to create artwork for the state's *Percent for Art* program and designed the State of New Hampshire Medal of Honor that is awarded posthumously to New Hampshire veterans lost in the line of duty.

Mike Place, who created tonight's on-screen graphics and videos, is a retired media arts professor and current President of Film New Hampshire, a nonprofit that supports NH high school media programs. Mike is also the Program Coordinator and Education Director for the NH High School Short Film Festival, now in its 13th year. In 2019, Mike received a commendation from Governor Sununu and the Executive Council and a resolution from the NH Senate for his leadership in media arts education.

Reception performers **Angela Brown, R.P. Hale, José Lezcano** and **Tim Sink** are accomplished musicians who perform regularly throughout New Hampshire. They are also appointed members of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.

Acclaimed visual artists **Vivian Beer** and **Leah Woods**, whose artworks are being raffled off tonight, are appointed members of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts. You can see their work in collections and exhibitions in New Hampshire and nationally.

About the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts

The New Hampshire State Council on the Arts is one of 50 state arts agencies across the country that help enhance the quality of life for citizens. The State Arts Council is dedicated to stimulating economic growth through the arts, investing in the creativity of students, making the arts accessible to underserved populations, and preserving heritage arts.

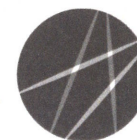
The State Arts Council provides a wide variety of services, competitive grants and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations, schools, health care facilities and individual artists, helping to ensure that the arts thrive in New Hampshire and are accessible to all. Funding for grants and services is provided by the New Hampshire Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

State Arts Council Staff

Lisa Burk-McCoy, Community Arts and Arts in Health Coordinator
Julianne Gadoury, Arts Education Coordinator
Carey Johnson, Curatorial Specialist
Emily Killinger, Visual Arts Associate
Ginnie Lupi, Director
Cassandra Mason, Deputy Director & Chief Grants Officer
Kayla Schweitzer, Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator

About the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

New Hampshire's Department of Natural and Cultural Resources includes the State Council on the Arts, Division of Historical Resources, State Library, Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Forests and Lands, and the Commission on Native American Affairs. The Department strives to nurture the natural and cultural well-being of our state. From the covered bridges and traditional music of our past to the avant garde performances and natural resources of today and tomorrow, New Hampshire's culture is as varied as its geography and its people. This strong natural and cultural base — which truly has something for everyone — attracts businesses looking for engaged workforces, provides outstanding educational opportunities and creates communities worth living in.



New Hampshire
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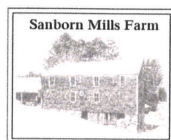


The 2019 Governor's Arts Awards celebration is made possible by the generous support of the following donors. Thank you!

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